

[54] FIRE RESISTANT VERMICULITE  
COMPOSITION BOARD AND METHOD OF  
MANUFACTURE

[75] Inventor: James R. Roberts, Sao Paulo, Brazil

[73] Assignee: Eucatex S. A. Industria E Comercio,  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

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Primary Examiner—Richard V. Fisher

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Eugene D. Farley

## [57]

## ABSTRACT

A fire resistant vermiculite composition board comprises, in percent by weight, from 40 to 90% heat expanded vermiculite particles; from 5 to 20% ceramic clay particles; from 10 to 30% hydrated cellulosic gel having a TAPPI drainage time of at least 900 seconds; from 1 to 20% defiberized wood; and from 1 to 20% starch. The vermiculite is in an incompletely expanded condition of a degree predetermined to permit its further expansion upon subsequent exposure to heat. This results in a corresponding expansion of the composition board of which it is a component when the board is exposed to fire, preventing the formation of cracks and insuring continued fire protecting coverage of the area across which the board is applied.

19 Claims, No Drawings